

Deborah Wiggs
Clayfield Rd. 0270 '01 MAR 13 P1:42
East Blue Hill ME 04629

March 6, 2001

FDA Commissioner
Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

RE: Docket No. 00D-1598

Dear FDA:

I am extremely concerned about your proposed guidelines for the voluntary labelling of genetically engineered (GE) foods. Opinion polls state clearly that the majority of Americans want MANDATORY labelling. The FDA should be taking a more precautionary approach to this new technology, as the governments of the European Union, New Zealand, and Japan are.

There has been ample evidence submitted to the FDA revealing that genetically engineered foods are NOT "substantially equivalent" to non-genetically engineered foods, that there are numerous health and environmental risks. Species boundaries are crossed and new, potentially-toxic proteins created. We are eating experimental food never before consumed in the history of mankind -- and your agency is failing to protect us. You do not even require the basic testing given to food additives. We want safety testing of genetically engineered foods-by impartial scientists, not those within the companies that produce them-before they are brought to market. And we want the food labelled if any ingredients have been genetically modified.

FDA's voluntary labelling guidelines are unacceptable since we all know the industry will NOT choose to label this food. Labels must be required so we can have a choice in what we eat. Labelling will also serve to protect us

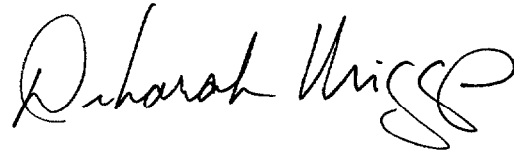
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from potential health effects that could be traced only if GE foods are identified.

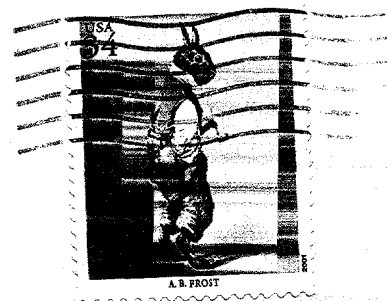
Recently, both the E.U./U.S. Biotechnology Consultative Forum and the Consumer Federation of America recommended mandatory labelling of genetically engineered foods. The FDA should heed this and stop working on behalf of the manufacturers of genetically engineered foods. Instead, please work for the American public, your actual constituency. We want genetically engineered foods to be tested and labeled!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deborah Wiggs". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial 'D'.

Deborah Wiggs
Clayfield Road
East Blue Hill, Me. 04629

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